



“And Jesus Reached Out His Hand”

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (August 25, 2013)

You have to wonder what Mary & Joseph were thinking when Jesus was born.
Did they realize what power he had? Did they think of the wonders he would do?
When they touched his finger and held his hands did they know?
The hands of Jesus reached out to many in the Bible.

Matthew 8:1-4, Mark 3:5, Luke 12:5-16

The leper wanted to be cleansed and Jesus was moved with compassion.
Jesus reached out His hand and healed him.

Mark 7:31-37

The disciples were traveling with Jesus through Tyre & Sidon. A man was deaf and mute.
Jesus reached out his hand, placed his fingers in the man's ears and touched his tongue.

Mark 8:22-26

When Jesus was traveling to Bethsaida he was greeted by a blind man who wanted to be healed.
Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, healing him partially. Reached out again.

Luke 4:40-41

One evening when visiting Capernaum the sun was setting fast, but Jesus had compassion.
He stayed until everyone was healed. He reached out his hand and healed. Even the demon
possessed.

Matthew 12:46-50

At a home meeting a crowd surrounded Jesus. His mother and brothers stood outside.
When He was told He reached out His hand and said this is my mother and my brothers.

Matthew 14:22-33

The disciples were traveling by boat across the Sea of Galilee. A great storm came upon them.
An image appeared. Jesus calmed them. Peter followed but sank. Jesus reached out his hand.

Matthew 18:1-14, Mark 9:36-37

The disciples were arguing over who was the greatest in the kingdom.
Jesus reached out his hands and took a child up into his arms and taught a valuable lesson.

Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16

Just a short time later some families brought their little children to see Jesus
The disciples pushed them away and rebuked them.
Jesus quickly condemned their actions. He reached out His hands, took them up and prayed.

John 8:2-12

It was probably sometime after these events that Jesus was going to the Mount of Olives.

It was his custom to spend time there in prayer, before going to the temple.

After his prayer time he headed into town to worship, but was met by the scribes and Pharisees.

They drug a woman in before him. They demanded that Jesus tell them what to do.

Remember what he did, He played in the dirt with His hands.

He chose not to stone the woman. But He symbolically reached out to her.

Luke 13:10-17

Jesus and His disciples were worshipping one Sabbath in a small village.

They were greeted by a woman who had a hunched back (18 years). Jesus reached out His hand.

Matthew 26:17-30

The disciples were gathered for the Passover. There was one who was going to betray Jesus.

Jesus warned them. And looking at Judas he reached out his hand and dipped in the cup.

Matthew 27:32-56, Mark 15:21-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19:17-30

After a day of illegal trials and severe beatings they led Jesus to Mt. Calvary.

They prepared the cross, then he reached out his hands, and they nailed his hands to the cross.

Luke 24, John 20

But the grave could not hold our Savior. He appeared to Mary and His disciples.

When He saw that they were frightened He told them to feel His hands and feet.

And when Thomas refused to believe Jesus reached out His hand and told Him to feel His wounds.

Luke 24:50-52

After spending many days with His disciples it was time for Jesus to see the Father.

He had taught them and encouraged them to make disciples, to be faithful, and to spread the gospel.

After blessing them, He lifted up his hands and was carried into heaven.

He entered heaven with His hands reaching out for the Father!

THIS SAME STORY IS TOLD IN ACTS 1.

But as we have mentioned before the book of Acts continues with us today.

We are the LIVING body of Christ.

We are still committed to doing the Acts of the Apostles and of Jesus.

I say all of that to remind you that.....We are not that dissimilar from Jesus.

We should long to reach out our hands to the sick.

We need to be there for those who need healing and pray for God's deliverance.

We should reach out our hands to the hurting.

There are people with physical, mental, and spiritual problems who want a shoulder to cry on.

We should reach out our hands to the fearful.

When people are afraid and struggling we need to be there to calm their fears.

We should reach out our hands to the joyful and sorrowful.

We need to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

We should reach out our hands to the children.
Do not forbid the little children to come to Jesus. Take them up in your arms and show them love.

We should reach out our hands to the erring.
Jesus may have wanted to kill Judas, but He didn't. He gave him an opportunity to be restored.
What are you doing to restore the erring members of God's flock?

We should reach out to those who have been rejected and discouraged.
There are A LOT of people in this world that need to feel the arms of Jesus.
They need someone to be there for them.

We should reach out our hands to those who need salvation.
Jesus showed the world that He loved them "This Much" on the cross. How much love do you have?
Would you die so that another could be saved? What are you doing to save the lost?

We should reach out our hands to the Father.
Jesus reached out His hands and let the Father receive Him!

Did you miss the fact that Jesus loves you (**John 3:16**)?
Don't you know God wants to hold you (**Luke 15**)?

Are you willing to reach out and take the hand of Jesus today?
The Father is waiting to embrace you. . . . His arms are open to receive you!
Won't you reach out your hand and let the Lord heal you, calm your fears, dry your tears, etc.
His hand is waiting for yours as we stand and sing this hymn together